

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BONN 20702 01 OF 02 231506Z

41

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 (ISO) W
----- 006968

P R 231417Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5301

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 20702

EXDIS

DEPARTMENT PASS OTHER POSTS AS NECESSARY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GW, AO

SUBJECT: FRG DESIRE TO COORDINATE POLICY ON ANGOLA

SUMMARY: THE FRG FOREIGN MINISTRY HAS EXPRESSED AN INTEREST IN COORDINATING FURTHER WESTERN ACTIONS WITH REGARD TO ANGOLA. END SUMMARY.

1. MINISTERIAL DIRECTOR LAHN, WHO IS IN CHARGE INTER ALIA OF AFRICAN AFFAIRS AT THE FRG FOREIGN MINISTRY, CALLED IN THE POLITICAL COUNSELOR TODAY IN ORDER TO REVIEW GERMAN THINKING ON ANGOLA AND TO DISCUSS POSSIBLE PLANS FOR FUTURE WESTERN COORDINATION.

2. LAHN RECALLED A RECENT FOUR-POWER EXCHANGE ON ANGOLA IN BRUSSELS AND SAID THAT THE GERMANS WERE ANXIOUS TO CONTINUE CONSULTATIONS WITH US AND WITH OTHER EUROPEAN POWERS IN ORDER TO MAKE SURE THAT OUR INFLUENCE WAS USED AS EFFECTIVELY AS POSSIBLE.

3. LAHN SAID THAT FRG HAS BELIEVED, TO DATE, THAT THERE WERE TWO PRINCIPAL POLICY OPTIONS OPEN TO THE WEST ON ANGOLA. THE FIRST OPTION WAS TO APPEAL TO THE SOVIET UNION, BILATERALLY OR OTHERWISE, TO CEASE ITS OWN

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 BONN 20702 01 OF 02 231506Z

INTERVENTION. THE SECOND OPTION, SHOULD THE FIRST

FAIL, WAS TO SUPPORT THE ANTI-MPLA ELEMENTS IN ANGOLA THROUGH ZAIRE AND ZAMBIA, ESPECIALLY ZAIRE. SINCE THE SECOND OPTION WOULD LEAD TO AN EXPANSION OF THE CONFLICT BECAUSE THE SOVIETS WOULD PROBABLY CONTINUE TO MATCH WESTERN ASSISTANCE, THE FRG WOULD HAVE PREFERRED TO HAVE SEEN THE FIRST OPTION BE SUCCESSFUL. THIS NOW SEEMS UNLIKELY AND WE MUST RECKON WITH THE DANGERS OF CONTINUED SOVIET SUPPORT FOR THE MPLA AND WITH A POSSIBLE NEGATIVE EFFECT ON ZAIRE AND ZAMBIA AS WELL AS WITH THE DANGER OF GREATER SOVIET INFLUENCE IN AFRICA.

4. LAHN SAID THE FRG THOUGHT THE WEST SHOULD ALSO TRY TO INFLUENCE THE UPCOMING MEETING OF THE OAU, NOW SCHEDULED TO TAKE PLACE FROM JANUARY 10 TO 12. HE THOUGHT IT WAS POSSIBLE FOR THE WESTERN STATES TO TALK TO INDIVIDUAL OAU MEMBER STATES IN ORDER TO ENCOURAGE THE OAU AS A WHOLE TO TAKE A POSITION AGAINST ANY FOREIGN INTERVENTION IN ANGOLA. LAHN EVEN THOUGHT THAT AN APPEAL COULD SUCCESSFULLY BE MADE TO AMIN ALONG THE SAME LINES. HE THOUGHT AMIN MIGHT BE FLATTERED BY THE ATTENTION AND THAT, IN ANY CASE, SUCH A POSITION WOULD NOT BE SO DIFFERENT FROM SOME OF THE THINGS AMIN HAS SAID HIMSELF.

5. LAHN POINTED TO A REPORT FROM THE FRG EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON ABOUT A RECENT "WASHINGTON STAR" ARTICLE WHICH SAID THAT THE US, AFTER THE RECENT SENATE ACTION, WAS CONTEMPLATING REQUESTS TO WESTERN EUROPEAN NATIONS (ESPECIALLY FRANCE AND BELGIUM) TO INCREASE THEIR AID AND THAT THE US WAS ALSO CONTEMPLATING GREATER DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS WITH THE OAU. LAHN SAID THIS SUGGESTED THAT WE MIGHT BE THINKING ALONG THE SAME LINES.

6. LAHN SAID THAT, OF COURSE, WE COULD NOT BE CERTAIN THAT AN APPEAL TO THE OAU WOULD SUCCEED. HE SAID THE GERMAN GOVERNMENT WAS RECEIVING REPORTS THAT THE NIGERIAN GOVERNMENT WOULD BE MAKING A MAJOR EFFORT IN SUPPORT OF THE MPLA ON THE GROUNDS THAT SOUTH AFRICA WAS ASSISTING THE FNLA AND THE UNITA. HE SAID SOUTH AFRICAN DETERMINATION TO DEFEND ITS INTERESTS IN

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 BONN 20702 01 OF 02 231506Z

ANGOLA COULD PERHAPS BE UNDERSTOOD, ESPECIALLY IN SUCH CASES AS SOUTH AFRICAN PROTECTION OF ANGOLAN INSTALLATIONS SUPPLYING WATER TO NAMIBIA, BUT THAT THE SOUTH AFRICAN ROLE NONETHELESS COMPLICATED THE ATTITUDE OF ANY AFRICAN STATES WHO WERE OPPOSED TO THE MPLA.

7. LAHN SAID THE FRG WAS PREPARED TO COORDINATE WESTERN EFFORTS IN ONE OF TWO WAYS:

SECRET

NNN

SECRET

PAGE 01 BONN 20702 02 OF 02 231430Z

41

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
----- 006355

P R 231417Z DEC 75
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5302
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS

S E C R E T SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 20702

EXDIS

-- FIRST, THE FRG WOULD BE PREPARED TO TAKE PART IN A POLITICAL DIRECTORS' MEETING ON ANGOLA. LAHN WOULD REPRESENT THE FRG AT SUCH A MEETING. HOWEVER, HE WAS UNCERTAIN WHETHER IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO ARRANGE SUCH A MEETING BEFORE THE OAU SESSION AND HE ALSO FEARED THAT QUESTIONS ABOUT PARTICIPATION COULD ARISE. FOR EXAMPLE, HE THOUGHT ITALY AND BELGIUM MIGHT PERHAPS HAVE TO BE INCLUDED AND OTHER STATES MIGHT THEN RESENT NOT TAKING PART. IN ANY CASE, THE POLITICAL DIRECTORS SHOULD NOT JUST EXCHANGE INFORMATION BUT SHOULD HAVE AT LEAST SOME INSTRUCTIONS ON HOW TO PROCEED.

-- SECOND, THERE COULD BE DIPLOMATIC COORDINATION THROUGH EMBASSIES. THE LATTER MIGHT BE PREFERABLE, AT LEAST IN THE INITIAL PHASES. LAHN SAID THAT THE BRITISH MAY ALREADY HAVE INITIATED SOME CONSULTATIONS SINCE CALLAGHAN IS REPORTED TO BE VERY CONCERNED ABOUT DEVELOPMENTS IN ANGOLA.

8. LAHN ASKED FOR US VIEWS ON HOW WE SHOULD PROCEED

AT THIS JUNCTURE, STRESSING AGAIN THAT THE FRG WAS
PREPARED TO PURSUE CONSULTATION IN ANY CHANNEL WE
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 BONN 20702 02 OF 02 231430Z

WOULD PREFER.
HILLENBRAND

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INTERVENTION, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 DEC 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BONN20702
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750445-0607
From: BONN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751217/aaaaaobi.tel
Line Count: 179
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <30 APR 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <22 OCT 2003 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FRG DESIRE TO COORDINATE POLICY ON ANGOLA SUMMARY: THE FRG FOREIGN MINISTRY HAS EXPRESSED AN
TAGS: PFOR, GE, AO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006